



Milestones

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Regional Office for Central Asia



HEALTH NEEDS IS IN THE CENTER OF A COMPREHENSIVE RESPONSE TO ILLICIT DRUGS

On June 26, International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, high-level policy-makers, experts and representatives of civil society organizations from eight West and Central Asian countries attended the Regional conference for West and Central Asia “From policy to practice: Responding comprehensively to drugs and HIV”.

The event, organised by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in cooperation with Committee on Fighting Drug Business and Illegal Drug Circulation of the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan, provided a space for delegates to exchange information about new initiatives for provision of evidence-informed health and social services for people

who use drugs; partnerships between health, criminal justice sectors and civil society to increase access to HIV services and reduce stigma and discrimination of people who use drugs; increased national funding for harm reduction services - these and many other issues were in the focus of the conference. Participants had also reviewed measures taken in West and Central Asia to achieve the UNGASS target of 50% reduction in HIV transmission among people who inject drugs by 2015.

The conference was targeted to the countries covered by UNODC Regional Programme on Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries, namely Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Tajiki-

stan and Turkmenistan. The participants were high-level policy-makers, national and international experts, and representatives of civil society. Each country was represented by four persons representing governmental sectors in charge of drug control and public health, members of the national parliaments, President’s Administration as well as civil society. The conference was also attended by other United Nations agencies, donor partners, technical experts and civil society networks.

The closing speech was made by Mr. Michel Kazatchkine, UN Secretary-General Special Envoy on HIV/AIDS in East Europe and Central Asia. The recommendations on the measures that could stop the HIV epidemic among people who use drugs were

Partnership



Scale up is about quantity, quality and comprehensiveness of services delivered; 3) Expand and facilitate outreach prevention by non-governmental and community organizations; 4) Address the issue of over-incarceration and that of access to Health services in prisons and pre-trial settings. Consider ending criminal sanctions for drug use and minor offences; 5) Review and address the role and practice of law enforcement; 6) More actively engage in fighting stigma and discrimination, including in health care settings; 7) Use the opportunity of the UNGASS on drugs to open a national debate on drugs and national drug policies.

as following: 1) When addressing the drug problem, prioritize Health of individuals and Health of the community at all levels of decision and implementation; 2) Urgently and significantly scale up implementa-

tion of the nine interventions package recommended by the UN, including Needle and Syringe Programme, Opioid Substitution Therapy/Methadone Maintenance Treatment and Anti-Retroviral Therapy.

UNODC AND KYRGYZSTAN STRENGTHEN THEIR COOPERATION AGAINST ILLICIT DRUG AND CRIME

Unique country programme in Central Asia will help UNODC deliver support to Kyrgyzstan, as well as to the wider region.

Vienna, 23 June 2014 - The Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Yury Fedotov, and the Vice Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan, Abdyrahman Mamataliev, today reinforced their cooperation in the areas of illicit drugs, and organized crime.

Speaking after the signing ceremony for a new integrated country programme in Kyrgyzstan, Mr. Fedotov said, "Confronting the flow of illicit Afghan opium is of paramount importance for the security of the region. Effective drug control in Kyrgyzstan can also assist in UN-wide efforts to consolidate peacebuilding and conflict prevention across Central Asia."

Vice Prime Minister Mamataliev noted his appreciation for



UNODC's assistance to the Kyrgyzstan government. He said that "by implementing different regional and national projects, including the Integrated Country Programme, UNODC was helping to effectively counter opiates flowing from Afghanistan". Kyrgyzstan is the first country in Central Asia to pilot UNODC's programme-based approach. The programme will be closely aligned with other UNODC regional and global

strategies, and includes activities ranging from law enforcement, prison management and anti-corruption to criminal justice, drug prevention and treatment.

Implemented by UNODC's Bishkek office, in close cooperation with Kyrgyz authorities, the programme will be overseen by a governance committee providing essential oversight and direction. The programme also builds on technical assistance efforts provided by UNODC to the Kyrgyz Republic through local projects supporting the State Service on Drug Control.

UNODC developed the programme following an assessment made in November 2010, and a 2011 roundtable for experts held in Bishkek. These efforts helped Kyrgyzstan to identify priority areas where UNODC's competence and experience could support their own activities.



In the field. Kyrgyzstan

NEW COUNTER NARCOTICS STRATEGY

Official launching ceremony of new Counter Narcotics Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic was held at the State Service on Drug Control in Bishkek in February. The Programme has been developed by the Kyrgyz State Service on Drug Control (SSDC) with the assistance of the UNODC project "Strengthening the State Service on Drug Control of the Kyrgyz Republic".

In continuation of the ceremony Mr. Fedulov, Head of UNODC Programme office, handed over set of equipment to the State Service on Drug Control including six TOYOTA 78-series off-road vehicles; crime scene kits; electronic scales; laboratory furniture; IT and other equipment.

Mr. Tokon Mamytov, the Vice-Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic, Ms. Pamela Spratlen, the Ambassador of the United States to the Kyrgyz Republic, Mr. Evgeny Terekhin, the

Chargé d'affaires of the Russian Federation to the Kyrgyz Republic, other officials and representatives of international organizations and NGOs took part in the event.

The new Anti-Drug Program - said Mr. Tokon Mamytov, - is a vital document defining measures and activities of the Kyrgyz Republic executive authorities in the drug control field. It implements the terms of international obligations, which Kyrgyz Republic took over in connection with the accession to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and the UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.

Project team will continue providing assistance to the SSDC in development of the Implementation Plan of the Anti-Drug Programme.

ENHANCING INTERACTION BETWEEN POLICE AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES



On 26 June 2014 a renovated police station was opened in Tash-Tumshuk village of Batken province of Kyrgyz Republic. Representatives of Batken province self-governance agencies, the MoI, the Embassy of the United States of America in the Kyrgyz Republic, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, UNODC, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, as well as representatives of local community and civil society took part in the event.

The major refurbishment of the local police station in Tash-Tumshuk is an example of cooperation between UNODC and the MoI in support of the implementation of the National Strategy on Sustainable Development of the Kyrgyz Republic and Police Reform Measures, adopted by the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic in 2013. The total cost of the repair works and procured equipment is over 2 million soms.

The project is implemented by UNODC with generous support of the Government of the United States of America and the U.S. Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs.



In the field. Kyrgyzstan



CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW POLICE STATION LAUNCHED IN JALAL-ABAD CITY

27 June 2014 citizens of Jalal-Abad city and representatives of the Jalal-Abad Mayor's Office, Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic (Mol), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Embassy of the United States of America in the Kyrgyz Republic, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe gathered to lay the first stone of a new police station in the "Sputnik" microdistrict in Jalal-Abad. The event took place within the framework of the UNODC project "Support to Criminal Justice Reform

in the Kyrgyz Republic". The aim of this project is to strengthen cooperation between police and local communities on crime prevention and public safety based on social partnership principles.

Construction of the new municipal police station is a result of the partnership between UNODC and the Ministry of Interior in support of the implementation of the National Strategy on Sustainable Development of the Kyrgyz Republic and Police Reform Measures adopted by the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic in 2013. The construction works are expected to be completed

by the end of 2014. The total construction amount is 3,7 million soms. The new building will be furnished with new modern office facilities and equipment. UNODC will also render assistance in the process of developing a local crime prevention strategy and its further implementation with the participation of local self-governance bodies, crime prevention centres and civil society.

The project "Support to Criminal Justice Reform in the Kyrgyz Republic" is part of UNODC's Integrated Country Programme of Assistance for the Kyrgyz Republic 2014-2016.

MEETING OF LAW EXPERTS

From 17 to 25 June 2014, expert discussions devoted to development of new draft laws – Kyrgyz Republic Criminal Code, Code on Offences, Criminal Procedure, Criminal-Executive and Civil Procedure codes – were organized in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

The expert discussions were conducted within the implementation framework of the Presidential Decree "Measures on Development of Criminal Justice in the Kyrgyz Republic" from 8th of August 2012, supported by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, International Prison Reform in Central Asia, Public Fund "Golos Svobody", Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Soros-Kyrgyzstan Fund, Unit-



ed Nations Development Programme, U.S. Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, British Embassy in the Kyrgyz Republic, ABA Rule of Law Initiative of the American Bar Association.

The expert discussions were actively attended by the representatives of the Kyrgyz Republic President's and

Government offices, law enforcement, judicial and other agencies, lawyers, and representatives of civil society and international experts, which allowed for draft laws' assessments, identification and comparison of different views pertaining to further revisions and/or improvements.

PROMOTING THE NETWORK OF PROSECUTORS AND CENTRAL AUTHORITIES IN RESPONSE TO TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME

Central Asia and Southern Caucasus are seen by the criminals mainly as source and transit zones for illicit trafficking activities, be it trafficking in drugs or human beings. Criminal networks generate multimillion profits, which are laundered then through the world's financial centres are hidden in the foreign jurisdictions.

Acknowledging a significant role of law enforcement and prosecutorial/judicial networks in suppressing, investigating and prosecuting serious trans-border crimes, UNODC has been supporting the establishment of such networks in the region (e.g. Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC)). Drawing on the practices and lessons learned from the UNODC Network of Organized Crime Prosecution Units operating in the Central American and West African regions, UNODC ROCA has designed an initiative "Establishing/Reinforcing the Network of Prosecutors and Central Authorities from Source, Transit and Destination Countries in response to Transnational Organized Crime in Central Asia and Southern Caucasus".

The initiative aims to address the challenges faced by prosecutors in handling transnational organized crime cases, and Central authorities responsible for MLA/extradition from eight countries of Central Asia and Southern Caucasus. These challenges include insufficient knowledge and skills on methodology of prosecution of complex transnational organized crime cases, difficulties in understanding material and procedural laws of



transit and destination countries outside of the CIS region and difficulties in establishing direct contacts and communication with prosecutors and Central authorities from these countries.

UNODC ROCA has successfully launched the initiative at the First Inter-Regional Workshop hosted by the General Prosecutor's Office of Kazakhstan on 13-14 May 2014. At the request of the General Prosecutor's Office of Kazakhstan the first workshop within the framework of the initiative focused on the issues of transnational trafficking of Afghan opiates via the northern drug routes.

The workshop brought together Central authorities and senior prosecutors from fourteen countries located along main northern Afghan drug trafficking routes (source, transit and destination - Afghanistan, Iran, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Russian Federation and US) as well as Eurojust, Europol (CARIN Network on Asset Recovery) and the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism representatives.

The participants praised the initiative, content and quality of the programme and presentations that allowed them, apart from launching the initiative, (i) to learn about differences in legal systems/practices of participating countries, (ii) exchange practices by presenting actual cases, (iii) propose practical solution to some challenges concerning MLA and seizure of crime proceeds, (iv) establish very useful personal contacts, and (v) facilitate the execution of current requests.

Apart from this, within the framework of the initiative, UNODC ROCA assisted Kazakhstan in improving its cooperation with Eurojust by facilitating communication for the purpose of arranging a visit to Eurojust of the high level delegation of criminal justice officials to discuss the ways to improve bilateral cooperation.

The participants agreed to hold the next meeting in the fourth quarter of 2014 and proposed to devote it to the issues of investigation/prosecution of e-money laundering and requesting/submitting electronic evidence. Uzbekistan tentatively agreed to host the meeting.



ILLICIT USE OF MONEY: INTERAGENCY COOPERATION



On 2-4 July 2014, the Regional Workshop on “Illicit use of Money and Value Transfer Services (MVTS): Enhancing Inter-Agency working and Financial Intelligence” & “Tenth regional meeting among the Financial Intelligence Units of the countries in West and Central Asia” were held in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic. It was organized under the UNODC Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighboring countries and attended by senior experts from Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan as well as the Russian Federation, USA and EU as observers.

The Workshop highlighted, amongst others, current variations

in approaches to Money and Value Transfer Services as well as sharing some information on challenges and successes in other regions. The Workshop also facilitated the identification of areas for development which will enhance each West and Central Asian country's ability to mitigate current and/or future threats from illicit use of Money and Value Transfer Services.

The workshop, although focused on the illicit opiate trade, provided a clear and useable framework for developing intelligence collection which can be used to better understand and disrupt other threats where finance is a key element of the criminal enterprise. The participants at the workshop worked

closely during interactive sessions to create an intelligence collection framework covering “key information requirements, likely sources, collection assets and priorities”. Participants also discussed issues related to identifying where expertise or capability gaps exist and how to work together with experts from UNODC to identify requirements for technical assistance and network development. Moreover, the participants expressed their support for the RP “Regional Anti Money Laundering Group of Experts/Network” by committing to specific actions on their side for strengthening this mechanism.



Cooperation

FIFTEEN YEARS OF SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE UNODC AND THE GOVERNMENT OF TAJIKISTAN

In May 2014 the conference dedicated to “Fifteen years of cooperation between the Republic of Tajikistan, UNODC and the countries of the region in the area of counter narcotics” was concluded in Dushanbe by highlighting the remarkable initiative resulting from the successful partnership between the Government of Tajikistan and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. This initiative was implemented in the frame of the UNODC project “Drug Control Agency of Tajikistan” in cooperation with the Regional Programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries and funded by the Government of the United States of America and the U.S. Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs and other donors.

The Drug Control Agency (DCA) mandate and objectives are

focused on development and implementation of the state policy in the area of fighting illicit drug trafficking and abuse of illicit drugs by ensuring interagency coordination of state and other organizations. Since its establishment, the Agency has been successful in fulfilling its objectives and delivering high-quality operational work in the field of drug criminality.

Mr. Yuri Fedotov, UNODC Executive Director, through the video message mentioned that the Drug Control Agency is on the frontlines of one of the most urgent challenges the international community faces in countering the flow of illicit drugs from Afghanistan, namely the trafficking of precursors and opiates to and from the country along the so-called “Northern route” via Tajikistan and Central Asia to Europe. Over the past fifteen years, the DCA has supported Tajikistan’s law enforcement bodies and provided

capacity building, policy and legislative advice to Government institutions. The Agency has continuously strengthened its operational and intelligence capacities to carry out counter-narcotics operations and improve coordination and cooperation with other relevant bodies at the national as well as regional and international levels.

General Rustam Nazarov, Drug Control Agency Director underlined that over the past fifteen years the DCA, with assistance of UNODC and the international community has increasingly raised its professional standards and performance which is widely recognized not only in Tajikistan but also in the entire region.

The drug trade remains a clear and present threat to the security and development of the Central Asian region and beyond, and it is essential to continue and strengthen this cooperation.





FIRST BORDER LIAISON OFFICES WERE ESTABLISHED IN THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN WITH ASSISTANCE OF THE UNODC



In May 2014, first Border Liaison Offices (BLO) were established and become operational at selected border crossing points of “Oybek” and “Sari Osie” in Uzbekistan. BLOs which allow direct communication between law enforcement agencies involved in border control were established in the framework of the UNODC project “Countering the trafficking of Afghan opiates via the northern route by enhancing the capacity of key border crossings points (BCPs) and through the establishment of Border Liaison Offices (BLOs) in Central Asia” with the funding support provided by the Government of Norway.

The opening ceremony was attended by the Uzbek officials from the National Information and Analytical Center on Drug Control under the

Cabinet of Ministries, Ministry of Interior, State Customs Committee, State Border Protection Committee of the National Security Service of the Republic of Uzbekistan and UNODC ROCA staff.

Uzbek Government is committed to fight illegal drug trafficking and transnational organized crime to promote trade and economic development, stability and peace. The support to improve cross border partnership between the countries of Central Asia from UNODC comes at a good time of withdrawal of Coalition troops from Afghanistan, - said Colonel Abubakir Tajibaev, first Deputy Chief of Surkhandarya Regional Customs Committee at the opening ceremony.

During 2014, the modalities of cross border cooperation among BLOs

along the Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan borders will be identified within the framework of current project.

Since the inception of the project, series of activities were implemented in order to launch the first Border Liaison Offices in Central Asia, including procurement of office and specialized searching equipment, construction and refurbishment of four Border Liaison Offices at the Tajik-Uzbek border and provision of the training courses aimed at enhancing capacity of border liaison officers assigned to work in the BLOs. Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) which provide legal basis for operations of the BLOs and the border liaison officers were developed and approved by the participating countries.

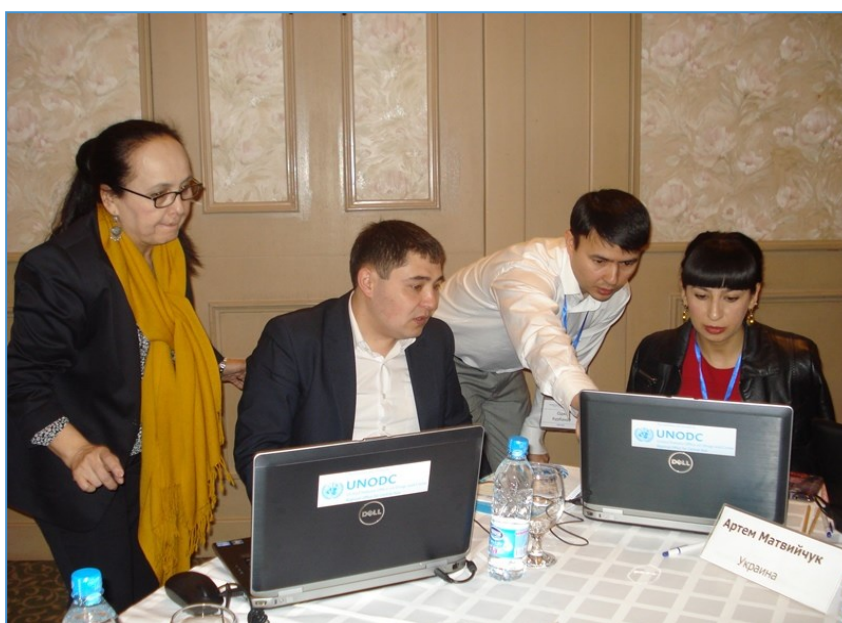
LAW ENFORCEMENT ANALYSTS LEARN ADVANCED STATISTICAL ANALYSIS BY USING IBM SPSS STATISTICS



The staff of Coordination and Analysis Unit of UNODC ROCA delivered a four-day specialized training on the Advanced use of IBM SPSS Statistics to staff of analytical units of drug law enforcement agencies of Central Asia, Caucasus, Moldova, Belarus, and Ukraine during 25-28 March 2014 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The aim of the training was to further enhance research skills and knowledge of drug law enforcement analysts by using modern statistical technologies. This event was a follow-up to earlier conducted training on The Integration of Research Activities and Data Analysis held during December 2013 in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The training was organized in tandem with three UNODC-led projects namely, "Afghan Opiate Trade Project (AOTP)", "Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries" and "Drug law enforcement systems for criminal intelligence collection, analysis and exchange". This time the training or-

ganizers summoned 24 specialists representing national customs service, counter-narcotics agencies and who have earlier attended and successfully completed basic training held in Almaty, Kazakhstan. During the training ROCA Coordination and Analysis Unit staff introduced Advanced level Statistics and

IBM SPSS Statistics software, which guided the staff of analytical units of LEAs through the advanced features of using IBM SPSS Statistics for drugs-monitoring data analysis process. As a result of four-day intensive interactive training participants (i) learned methods of reading data, data definition, data modification, and data analysis and presentation of analytical results; (ii) navigated the UNODC run Drugs Monitoring Platform portal and became acquainted with the real-time drug-related information, the use of which will allow analysis of trends in illicit drug trafficking worldwide; (iii) discussed current situation on the so-called Northern Route, including cultivation in Afghanistan, transportation, concealment, profiles of traffickers etc. Upon completion of the training participants who have successfully completed the advanced course received certificates of completion.



Drug abuse prevention



“I REALIZED HOW UNITED BECAME OUR FAMILIES, TEACHERS AND STUDENTS”

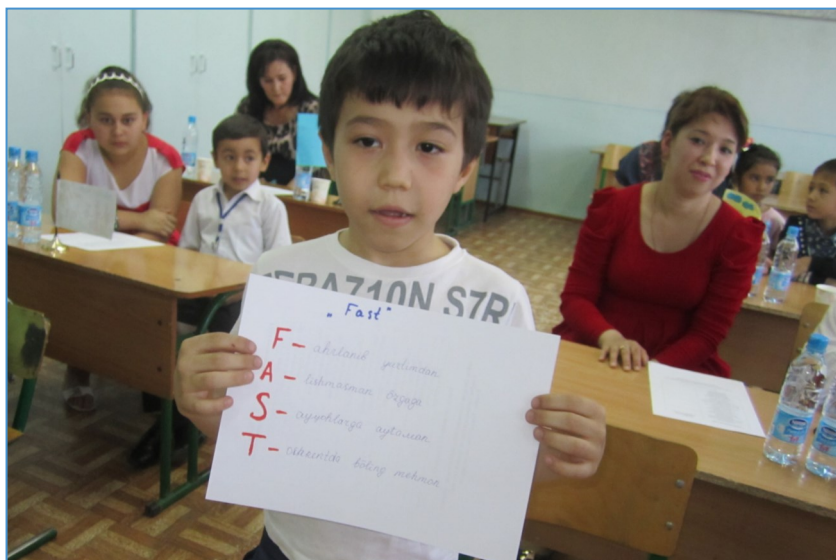
was a feedback provided by a school principal on the implementation of “Family and school together” programme in Uzbekistan.

“When FAST project came to our school initially, I felt a bit skeptical. But since the project started I saw increasing positive changes which occurred with our teachers, parents and children. And on the graduation ceremony I realized how united became our families, teachers and students. We are going to spread FAST to other classes too.”

(Principal of School №160)

During 2013-2014 the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) successfully implemented three cycles of evidence based project “Families and Schools Together” (FAST) within the framework of UNODC’s global project “Prevention of drug use, HIV/AIDS and crime among young people through family skills training programme in low - and middle-income countries”. The project was implemented in 6 pilot schools of Tashkent. In total, the project covered 150 families and trained 61 local trainers and 8 intern-trainers. The Cultural Adaptation Group adapted FAST training materials to express local cultural norms and traditions.

The third cycle of FAST implementation was conducted during April – May 2014 in two pilot schools of Tashkent. Three intern trainers were certified and became national FAST trainers. The Ministry of Public Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan which thoroughly monitored the FAST implementation has highly appreciated and praised mu-



“A girl who even could not say “Hello” to classmates for the whole year, after participation in FAST obtained a lot of new friends! It is Amazing!”

(Trainer of school №160)

“My daughter was naughty prior to the project. Now she listens to me, she became more respectful to other family members”

(Parent, School № 300)

tual collaboration between FAST and UNODC teams.

Taking into consideration achievements of FAST implementation it was decided to conduct a Round table with the participation of the Ministry of Public Education, NGOs, representatives of respective embassies and international organizations in order to discuss FAST project introduction into the national system of education and ways of ensuring sustainability of the project in the country.



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